

2/9/11

Environmental Committee
General Assembly
State of Connecticut

Re: Testimony in response to Committee Bill # 57 (LCO253)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mitch Klein; I am Vice President of Government Relations for Krasdale Foods. We are a wholesale grocery distributor located in New York and serve 387 supermarkets and grocery stores in CT.

In response to the above referenced bill we submit the following for your consideration:

If the State of CT is indeed concerned about a clean environment, I would strongly urge you to look at the way in which NJ has addressed the issue.

NJ addresses all products that can enter the waste stream and applies a tax on multi levels which ultimately lessens the burden to all.

The bill you propose will dramatically raise the cost of these products to the consumer.

At the current time there is no infrastructure in place to handle these additional items which will lead to an increased cost to establish them.

Surrounding states have not expanded these items into a program. Any store on the border to another state will lose significant sales revenue as consumers cross state lines to shop. This occurs every Sunday now, when consumers want to purchase beer and do all their shopping across the border on this day.

The items you look to include in this expansion are rarely seen at traffic lights rolling in the street.

What is constantly visible in the streets of CT, which the Legislature seems to ignore, are all the coffee cups, newspapers and sandwich wrappers from fast food.

I would strongly urge before you again burden the residents of the state with increased food costs, you actually examine what is affecting the environment.